

Canada's domestic Combat Management System (CMS 330). No integrated Ballistic Missile Defense will be provided.

b. The AEGIS Combat System Computer Program supports operation of the ACS Baseline 9 capability.

c. The AN/SPY-7 Solid State Radar Components will be integrated with Lockheed Martin's Solid State Radar (SSR), which is being procured by Canada via Direct Commercial Sale contract.

d. The Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) system fuses tracking data from shipboard and off-ship sensors and distributes radar measurement data to other platforms with CEC capability. The system includes a Communications Security (COMSEC) card.

e. The Mk 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) is a fixed, vertical, multi-missile launching system with the capability to store and launch multiple missile variants depending on the warfighting mission, including the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM), Standard Missile, and Tomahawk Cruise Missiles.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Canada can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Canada.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have been down here a lot talking about why we need to increase the defense budget: We face more threats than ever before. China and Russia are investing more in modernizing their militaries than ever before. We need to strengthen our alliances to discourage our adversaries from acting, and the best way to back up our friends is with a strong military.

These are all good reasons, but we have 2.2 million other reasons we need to increase our defense budget: all the brave men and women who serve our country in uniform.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I could talk all day about all the ways our servicemembers are the best in the world and how much I appreciate them. But we shouldn't just talk about it; we need to show these brave men and women just what they mean to us.

When I travel, I always eat in the mess halls with our troops—not the officers, the enlisted men and women. When I do that, I get a real sense of what our troops need to do their jobs and defend this country. So I have a pretty good idea of what will show them our appreciation. We should show them by providing adequate, consistent and stable funding on time.

When budgets are delayed and defense spending is cut, you know who feels it the most? Our troops. It hurts their morale. It hurts their readiness. It hurts their families. It affects everything.

We should show them with more and better training that focuses on their safety. We should show them by giving them modern weapons and equipment that work and work well. We should show them by taking care of their families, making sure their spouses have good employment opportunities, their kids have access to high-quality childcare and education, and they all have the best healthcare. We should show them by giving them high-quality housing.

Over the last 2 years, this was my priority, and it will be this year too. Senator REED also understands this sacred duty we have.

The last two years, we have given our troops a pay raise of 3 percent or more—some of the largest annual pay raises ever. We increased hazardous duty pay by 10 percent last year; that is what we give our troops in the most dangerous jobs. We have made changes to fix the broken housing system because no servicemember should ever be living in bad housing. We are continuing to keep an eye on this until all the necessary fixes are in place, including the Housing Bill of Rights we are waiting for. We have helped make sure military spouses have good jobs, even when they move. We have focused on building a modern healthcare system that works for our servicemembers and their families, and we have prioritized mental healthcare for those who serve. I am proud we have been able to do all this.

But here is the thing: Taking care of our troops—that is at least a third of our defense budget right there. That is the right thing to do. Our servicemembers are the backbone of our national security. It's also the necessary thing to do for our All-Volunteer Force. No one is forced to enlist anymore. The military needs to compete for our country's best and brightest, and that takes money.

The troops lay everything on the line to defend our Nation. They sacrifice time with their families and friends. As we remember each year on Memorial Day, many make the ultimate sacrifice. There aren't enough words to express our gratitude. That is why we have to show them.

But the math of President Biden's budget doesn't add up when it comes to taking care of our troops. Not when we have to do all these other things—defend against more than one serious threat, support our allies and partners, and take on new domains. We can do things to make things more cost-effective for the taxpayer, but we can't go back on our promises to those who agreed to serve. They are all volunteers, after all.

So it concerns me when people talk about us spending more than China,

Russia, and other countries—it is just not true.

One of the reasons our defense budget is large is because we take care of our people. China and Russia—they don't do that. They give them a gun and tell them to fight. No one else takes care of their people the way we do. That is why they don't have the caliber of people we do. Our military personnel are the best in the world.

So yes, a strong military budget is about sending a message to our enemies. It is about sending a message to our allies and partners. But it is also about sending a message to our troops: that we are going to take care of you and your families while you serve. We are going to make sure you have what you need to defend this country—the equipment, the training, the personnel, the weapons, the support.

President Biden's budget equals a cut to national defense. While we are going to prioritize taking care of our troops they are going to feel that cut somehow, somehow, no matter what we do. We are asking them to do more with less, and we have been asking them for decades now.

There are things President Biden and I agree we need to do when it comes to our national defense—keep the Indo-Pacific open and free, enhance our cyber defense, innovate and modernize, and beyond. But President Biden's got more on his list of things he wants to ask our military to do—stuff that really falls outside the core mission of the Department of Defense—and he is not even giving them more budget to do it with. This is not a message we should send our troops. It is not what they deserve.

One month for military appreciation—it is really not enough. But we can show our troops our appreciation year-round by giving them the budget they need, a budget with real growth to match the strategy they are carrying out.

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today, in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Every year throughout the month of May, the people of the United States come together to celebrate the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, AA NH/PI, who have enriched our society and whose legacies are deeply intertwined in our Nation's history.

The AA NH/PI communities are among the fastest growing and most diverse demographic groups in our country. Today, approximately 23 million people of AA NH/PI descent live in the United States, representing more than 45 ethnicities and speaking more than 100 languages. As AA NH/PI communities increase their social and political presence in our country, we must work to raise the visibility of issues important to AA NH/PIs. One way to do

this is to uplift the diverse voices of our communities through representation. This year, there are a record 21 AA NH/PI Members serving in Congress, and we celebrate the historic election of KAMALA HARRIS to be the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President. However, even with today's progress, our AA NH/PI communities continue to face issues of disparity and prejudice.

This year, we once again commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month amid a global pandemic. While the pandemic has claimed the lives of more than half a million Americans, COVID-19 has had an outsized impact on communities of color, including Pacific Islanders, who are three times more likely to contract COVID-19 and are nearly twice as likely to die from the disease. The pandemic has also exposed and exacerbated social and economic disparities in our country. Throughout the pandemic, Pacific Islanders and other vulnerable groups have been disproportionately impacted by unemployment, food and income insecurity, and unstable or inadequate housing, among other hardships. This pandemic has highlighted the work we must do to ensure that all Americans, especially individuals from marginalized communities, have access to quality healthcare, fair pay, workplace protections, and other civil and human rights.

Violence and discrimination against Asian Americans have also surged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Between March 2020 and March 2021, Stop AAPI Hate received over 6,600 reports of discrimination and hate incidents across all 50 States and the District of Columbia. These unprovoked, random attacks can happen anywhere—on public transportation, on sidewalks, in businesses, and even in the workplace.

The dramatic rise in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans might be a recent development, but we all know that racism has never been far beneath the surface in our country. Part of honoring the rich history of the AA NH/PI community includes reflecting on some of the darker moments in our Nation's past. AA NH/PIs have always been targeted as the "other" in our country and have been treated as the perpetual "foreigner." Since the first Asian immigrants came to our country nearly two centuries ago, our communities have experienced race-based prejudice and have been subject to discriminatory policies that impinged on individuals' civil rights, improperly rescinded wartime promises, and excluded immigrants from Asian countries out of intolerance and fear.

Recognizing the recent increase of hate crimes, Representative Grace Meng and I introduced legislation to focus attention on hate crimes committed during the pandemic. Last week, President Biden signed this bill, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, into law. This action sent a clear message

of solidarity to our AA NH/PI communities at a crucial moment. This bipartisan legislation will help Federal, State, and local governments confront hate in our country and help victims of hate crimes to come forward.

Today, AA NH/PIs are uniting to confront this epidemic of racism, discrimination, and hate. We are marching, speaking out, and demanding action in cities and states across the Nation to ensure that our country does not repeat the mistakes of the past. Representation and visibility are some of the ways we are making our voices heard. However, we must also sustain efforts to teach empathy and educate others about our history. We can help to create a more just and equitable society by raising awareness of past injustices and current issues of importance to our communities.

As we celebrate the contributions of AA NH/PIs, there is also clear evidence demonstrating how much work remains to be done. I look forward to working with my colleagues beyond the month of May, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, to continue the work that must be done to advance civil rights and equal treatment for all.

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE-WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my strong support for the recent passage of S. 914, the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. I believe it is a vital investment in the current and future health of all our communities, and I applaud my Senate colleagues for helping to get this done.

Ensuring access to clean water is essential—and one of the most basic duties of government. Every American deserves safe drinking water and wastewater treatment systems, and in my home State of Maryland, these systems are vital both to the health of our fellow citizens and to the health of our rivers and our beloved Chesapeake Bay.

This bill will help pull our waterways into the 21st century by providing a critical boost in water systems investments to restore aging infrastructure, fund cutting-edge waterway technology, create resiliency in the face of climate change, and create new jobs. And critically, this legislation was designed with equity in mind, so marginalized communities can benefit from this big leap forward. This has been a longstanding bipartisan priority, and I am pleased that colleagues from both sides of the aisle have come together to pass this vital legislation through the U.S. Senate.

Now, it is up to our colleagues in the House to pass this bill too so we can get it to the President's desk. And should he sign it into law, as I believe he will, I will be doing my part as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee to ensure we fully fund this initiative.

I thank my colleagues for joining me and a bipartisan group of Senators in supporting this key investment in our Nation's water infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RANDY GORDON

• Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate Randall "Randy" C. Gordon on his retirement from the National Grain and Feed Association, NGFA, after nearly 43 years of service.

A native Nebraskan, Randy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, UNL, with undergraduate degrees in journalism, history, and political science. After college, Randy worked at UNL's Agricultural Communications Department and freelanced for the Omaha World-Herald.

Randy's NGFA story began on July 1, 1978, when he was hired as the director of information services. In 1987, he was promoted as NGFA's vice president for communications and government relations. A voracious reader and writer, in 1996, Randy authored a history of the first 100 years of the NGFA for its centennial celebration, entitled "A Century of Agricultural Abundance Through Free Enterprise." In 2005, the Food and Drug Administration awarded Randy for his contributions to preventing the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, BSE, in the United States. In 2012, Randy became president and CEO of NGFA. Through more than four decades of NGFA service, Randy has made countless contributions to the U.S. agricultural industry.

As the senior senator from Nebraska, I congratulate Randy on a successful and impactful career representing crucial aspects of the agricultural value chain. Randy, I wish you, your wife Barbara, and your children and grandchildren good health as you enter retirement. You have done Nebraska proud. •

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Minot, ND, as well as the 100-year birthdays of two Kiwanis members, ND, constituents, Mr. Lynn Aas and Mr. John Sinn.

Since its founding on May 27, 1921, the Kiwanis Club of Minot has helped make my home town a better place to live. As a former member of this organization, I deeply appreciate their continued dedication and contributions to the community and surrounding area. Some examples of their work include donating books to schools, supporting the arts, and raising money for local service organizations, like the Boy Scouts and the Juvenile Drug Court and Domestic Violence Crisis Center. In these ways, Minot's local Kiwanis